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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/465/Add.2)*]

71/237. International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006, 63/225 of 19 December 2008, 65/170 of 20 December 2010, 67/219 of 21 December 2012 and 69/229 of 19 December 2014 on international migration and development, its resolution 68/4 of 3 October 2013, by which it adopted the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007, 64/166 of 18 December 2009, 66/172 of 19 December 2011, 68/179 of 18 December 2013, 69/167 of 18 December 2014 and 70/147 of 17 December 2015 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and recalling also chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,[2] 2008/1 of 11 April 2008,[3] 2013/1 of 26 April 2013[4] and 2014/1 of 11 April 2014,[5]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[3] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 5* (E/2008/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[4] Ibid., *2013, Supplement No. 5* (E/2013/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[5] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 5* (E/2014/25), chap. I, sect. B.

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building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 September 2016,[6]

Welcoming the agreement to bring the International Organization for Migration, an organization regarded by its member States as the global lead agency on migration, into a closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations as a related organization,[7]

Welcoming also the New Urban Agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[8] and recognizing the linkages between migration and sustainable urbanization and sustainable urban development,

Welcoming further the Paris Agreement[9] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,[11] and those provisions that are applicable to migrants,

Recalling also the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, which addressed constructively the issue of international migration and development and explored the opportunities and the challenges that international migration presents, including the protection of the human rights of migrants and the contribution of migrants to development,

Recalling further the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, adopted on 3 October 2013 on the occasion of the High-level Dialogue,

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[6] Resolution 71/1.

[7] Resolution 70/296.

[8] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[9] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[11] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[12] recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[13] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[13] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[14] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[15] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[16] and recalling also the Declaration on the Right to Development,[17]

Encouraging States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[18] and to consider acceding to relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, as appropriate,

Recalling the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches and dialogue on migration and development, and acknowledging that it has proved to be a valuable forum for holding frank and open discussions, including through multi-stakeholder dialogues, and that it has helped to build trust among participating stakeholders through the exchange of experiences and good practices and by virtue of its voluntary, intergovernmental, non-binding and informal character and the engagement of civil society actors as well as the private sector,

Acknowledging the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate, including at the level of the United Nations and other international organizations, in relation to development,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[19]

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[12] Resolution 217 A (III).

[13] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

[15] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[16] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[17] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[19] A/71/296.

2. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development and that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses and balanced approaches, and also recognizes that international migration is a cross-cutting phenomenon that no one State can manage on its own and that calls for global approaches and global solutions, as well as the integration of sustainable development, with due regard for social, economic and environmental dimensions, and should be addressed in a balanced manner through a whole-of-government approach and with respect for human rights;

3. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and development at all levels, including the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;

4. *Acknowledges* the complexity of migratory flows and that international migration movements also occur within the same geographical regions, and in this context calls for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions, regardless of the level of development;

5. *Recognizes* the need to give particular attention to addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by migrants, and reaffirms the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

6. *Also recognizes* the need for international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status;

7. *Expresses concern* about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, and when addressing, in a holistic and comprehensive manner, the challenges of irregular migration, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants, regardless of their migration status;

9. *Welcomes* the decision to launch the process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to an intergovernmental conference on international migration, to be held in 2018, at which a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration will be presented for adoption;

10. *Expresses concern* about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who find themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognizes the obligation of States to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, including those of women and children, regardless of their migration status, and the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to respect and promote international labour standards, as appropriate, and to respect the rights of migrants in their workplaces, including appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in domestic work;

12. *Recognizes* that it is necessary to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons, including in the health, social and engineering sectors, affects the development efforts of developing countries, and emphasizes the need to consider circular migration in this regard;

13. *Also recognizes* the importance of enhancing the capacities of low-skilled migrants in order to increase their access to employment opportunities;

14. *Underlines* the important role that migrants play as contributors to the development of origin, transit and destination countries, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development and the need to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status;

15. *Encourages* Member States to consider reducing the costs related to migration, such as the fees paid to recruiters, where applicable, lowering the transfer costs of remittances, enhancing the portability of social security entitlements and other acquired rights and promoting the mutual recognition of the educational and professional qualifications and competencies of migrants;

16. *Recognizes* that remittances constitute an important source of private capital, complement domestic savings and wages and can be instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients, and that remittances cannot be equated to other international financial flows, such as foreign direct investment, official development assistance or other public sources of financing for development;

17. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to further promote faster, cheaper and safer transfers of migrant remittances in both source and recipient countries, including through the reduction of the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent and the elimination of remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030, consistent with target 10.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[20] as well as the need to facilitate interaction between diasporas and their countries of origin;

18. *Notes* the adoption of resolution 189/XXXVIII by the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, on 16 February 2015, in which the Governing Council proclaimed 16 June as the International Day of Family Remittances and focused attention on the receiving end of family remittances and the need to capitalize on their potential to further help meet the economic, social and environmental challenges confronting developing countries, particularly in rural areas;

19. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises and natural disasters and other drivers on international migration and migrants, and in this regard urges Governments to combat unfair and discriminatory treatment of all migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families;

20. *Recognizes* that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level, and also recognizes the need to address

[20] Resolution 70/1.

the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against women and girls;

21. *Reiterates its commitment* to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, identifying and protecting victims of trafficking, preventing and combating migrant smuggling, as well as the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities, and protecting migrants from exploitation and other abuses, stresses the need to establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human-trafficking policies and to reinforce cooperation on prevention, the prosecution of traffickers and the protection of victims of trafficking, and encourages Member States to ratify, accede to and implement relevant international instruments on preventing and combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants;

22. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation at the national level of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children[21] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, [22] supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[23] all of which were adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, remains a challenge, and therefore stresses that it is important for States parties thereto to continue their efforts in this regard;

23. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate on mobility programmes that facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, including through labour mobility, as well as programmes that allow migrants to integrate fully into society and that facilitate family reunification in accordance with the laws and specific criteria of each Member State, and notes that cooperation on return and readmission forms an important element of international cooperation on migration;

24. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Member States to address the drivers that create or exacerbate large movements of migrants, reiterates the need to analyse and respond to the factors, including in countries of origin, which lead or contribute to large movements, and to create conditions that allow communities and individuals to live in peace and prosperity in their homelands, and recognizes that migration should be a choice, not a necessity, and the need to take measures, inter alia, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

25. *Recognizes* the need to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration, welcomes in this regard the efforts undertaken to create greater public awareness of their contributions, also welcomes the global campaign launched by the Secretary-General to counter xenophobia, supports its implementation in cooperation with the United Nations and all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with international law, and reiterates that the campaign will emphasize, inter alia, direct personal contact between host communities and migrants and will highlight the positive contributions made by the latter, as well as our common humanity;

26. *Strongly condemns* the acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of nationality, religion or

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[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[22] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

[23] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

belief, urges States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts, and in this regard recognizes the need to improve their integration and inclusion, as appropriate, with particular reference to access to education, health care, justice and language training;

27. *Recognizes* the importance of coordinated efforts of the international community to assist and support migrants stranded in vulnerable situations and to facilitate, and cooperate on when appropriate, their voluntary return to their country of origin, and calls for practical and action-oriented initiatives aimed at identifying and closing protection gaps;

28. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Member States to protect the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, at all times, and to cooperate closely to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, including return and readmission, taking into account national legislation;

29. *Also reaffirms* the commitment of Member States to safeguard the rights of, protect the interests of and assist migrant communities abroad, including through consular protection, assistance and cooperation, in accordance with relevant international law, further reaffirms that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country, recalls at the same time that each State has a sovereign right to determine whom to admit to its territory, subject to that State's international obligations, also recalls that States must readmit their returning nationals and ensure that they are duly received without undue delay, following confirmation of their nationalities in accordance with national legislation, and recognizes the need to take measures to inform migrants about the various processes relating to their arrival and stay in countries of transit, destination and return;

30. *Emphasizes* the need for reliable, accurate, disaggregated, nationally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data and indicators on international migration, including, when possible, on the contributions of migrants to development in countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to facilitate the design of evidence-based policymaking and decision-making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development, and in this regard invites the entities of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions, in accordance with their mandates and as appropriate, to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this matter;

31. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds, programmes and related organizations of the United Nations, including the International Organization for Migration and other members of the Global Migration Group, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, as well as other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation and enhance their engagement with Member States, the private sector and civil society to better and more fully address the issue of international migration and development, in order to adopt a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach;

32. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development to continue to facilitate the linkages between the United Nations and the Global Forum on Migration and Development,

promote collaboration between the Global Forum process and the Global Migration Group, including the International Organization for Migration, and continue to advocate for the principles reflected in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;[24]

33. *Stresses* the need to deepen the interaction between Governments and civil society in order to find responses to the challenges and the opportunities posed by international migration, to recognize the contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promoting the well-being of migrants and their integration into society, especially when in conditions of extreme vulnerability, and to strengthen the support of the international community for the efforts of such organizations;

34. *Decides* to hold the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in the first half of 2019, early enough to inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development which will review the Goals and targets relevant to migration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and also decides to hold the High-level Dialogues during every fourth session of the General Assembly, beginning with the seventy-third session, at United Nations Headquarters, to review the follow-up to the outcomes of the previous High-level Dialogues, advance the discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, assess progress towards the achievement of the migration-related Goals and targets, including migration-related commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, [25] taking into account other migration- and development-related processes;

35. *Also decides* that the modalities for the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be decided upon at its seventy-third session, and recommends a review, no later than at the eighty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of the organizational arrangements for future high-level dialogues, taking into account the alignment with all relevant United Nations processes;

36. *Invites* the regional commissions, in collaboration with other relevant entities and related organizations of the United Nations, including the International Organization for Migration, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to examine the regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

37. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution that also looks further into the integration of the migration perspective at the national, regional and international levels, including information on best practices and

[24] Resolution 68/4.

[25] Resolution 69/313, annex.

recommendations to address the difficulties that migrants face and to bolster their contribution to development;

39. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "International migration and development", unless otherwise agreed.

66th plenary meeting
21 December 2016